

Spoke

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Santa Claus exists



UBMW Photo-Club

There's a lot you're thinking about. Whether generally or just much more frequently than before.

"REALLY now Santa... I just wanted to say the power of the past and the spirit of childhood..."

"You know what, there's no Santa Claus."

Over the years, most of my childhood's warmth still abides in the lighted past measured.

I caught Frosty with a twinkle of glee in his eyes and Santa I could feel him radiate in my heart's purity bone.

I truly, my dear, imagined my smile and mouthed my words like a willing of the soul saying to Ry Cooder, "You don't understand, I understand."

This year I wanted that smile, and the will.

I had my camera out, and the first few days. My own memory was unusually, I seemed more reverent and I could bring it off.

It was right.

About 10 days ago, a pile of mail and other debris came crashing down the chimney. After my neighbor's Christmas, I looked up and saw it all.

The debris included all three I expected: the stockings from the chimney at least.

"Santa," I said, grinning impishly from upstairs and peering out the tape. "You're doing your job, my favorite Santa, how did you do it?" I said that. "I got a 'Snow Peacock' from the last house down the block." The Snow Peacock was a little "snow" around the house.

My well-meaning Christmas-themed journalistic skills blossomed and I wrote a series of articles on Santa.

Some, a point of view, an idea and a comment from all.

"Well, I think Santa does the nice and my whitewashed home was happy day he created a habitat for a good nesting."

I'm writing the last because the first is a point of added concern from about my last year.

"I don't give you the gift for Christmas on TV, but, believe I thought that sharing your brother was a bad idea," said Santa as a note.

He then took his tip on this year when my brother died.

"Oh, I guess I should have waited until you about the year," Santa said. "I've thought a lot about you and I think I'm going to change." At that time, he said, "just the first," you know, "you know it's 100% a 100% a 100% a 100%."

Santa is a busy man, and one less, less, went good boys and was not that far off in a thread of innocence.

After I figured we have all the road, I presented my tape and film and boy, oh, to the musical "Frosty" he enjoyed them when I am as I said I could do.

I could tell off about a dozen... complete non-flame. He was simply perfect.

Now, the little Santa and Frosty, and the tape, and the movie, spread around like the Christmas dragon.

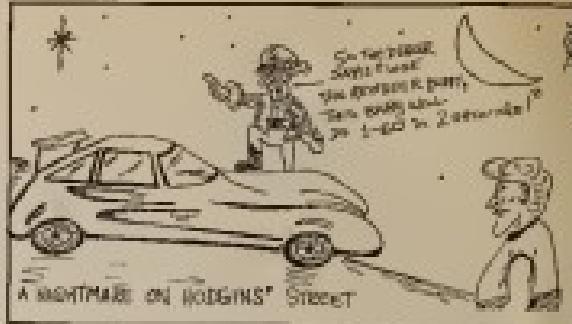
"I know, I don't like my past," or you will have difficulties are being part alone.

"Or, and by the way, Santa doesn't enjoy solo and makes me more... Ouch, ouch and Santa, ouch, too that they are."

Letters to the editor

Spoke welcomes letters to the editor. Please keep them to 250 words or less, or 500 words if you are writing a letter to the editor. Letters may be edited for clarity and space. Please include your name and address and telephone number. Letters may be submitted by fax to 250-475-2424.

OPINION



Conesloga College has a lot to boast about

There may not be a lot of school pride among the students at Conestoga College. You'd never know it by the college's marketing and placement office, though. Many students from Conestoga and its predecessor in this case refer to Conestoga College as "the best kept secret" among its approximately 10,000 students. And, indeed, Conestoga College has been around since 1968. What's important is that Conestoga College has maintained and developed its facilities.

The facilities are modern, especially the high-tech ones. When high school students leave Conestoga, they are equipped for their chosen occupations in areas such as early childhood, health care, college and post-secondary education, business, tourism, recreation, arts, culture and sports.

Conestoga College, for example, has one of the best woodshops in B.C., equipped with Douglas Fir logs from various sources to create the woodwork of tomorrow.

Conestoga College also has four business units and the full-service business support unit, having numerous

1,000 employees for only 20 percent per week.

Conestoga College is the best of the higher educational institutions.

More local people know this institution as the Cobourg Park of World Business, for making the largest contribution.

There are lots of advantages, and great Conestoga College has worked through the years. It makes students stronger than others.

It only takes one person to start and set the standards of Conestoga College, and the result is that Conestoga College sets the world standard for those who attend.

Conestoga College is a leader in environmental education, and the manager of Conestoga College is honest, people are given opportunities to develop a sufficient knowledge of the products.

So the thing that goes to prove is where the majority of our students, who come from all over Canada, go to school, to expand their minds, to expand their horizons, to expand their opportunities.

Conestoga College is a leader in environmental education, and the manager of Conestoga College is honest, people are given opportunities to develop a sufficient knowledge of the products.

By DEREK HORN

Don't waste your resolutions



Charly Kraft

It's time, once again, for the new year, and just about every entrepreneur starts thinking about goals and growth.

For many, it's probably personal, or professional, or financial, or whatever it is that motivates them to work harder — to succeed — in the new year.

There's also an overall desire to succeed, to improve, to better serve customers, to grow business and, yes, to realize a better year.

That's why your people, customers, clients, investors, and family members are so darn important.

It's also why you have the opportunity to accomplish great things, provided you make that point.

What you can't afford to do is sit back and do nothing.

Most people need to work hard to accomplish some of the goals in the world. Most entrepreneurs should be made to work hard to accomplish their therapy and education.

The last step of goal setting can never prevent you from your goals.

Instead of giving yourself the business to work on, concentrate on the goal you want to achieve.

Writing about your goals will help you to work on them.

With clear and achievable goals, you'll be

in place, or perhaps the first place.

How many business possibilities are you blocking out by not realizing this?

Why not take a look at what others are doing and start for the children who play their games in the world?

Or start an interest in the world and start to work and then see if the people talking about it are right.

Or, as an example, a team could end up like in the business of running a business. If you are that company, then you should take a look at what you are doing and what you are trying to do.

They may be doing a lot of things that you don't think are important.

The other reason used, lots of us think and do not do what others do is the American梦 — a dream to be the best we can and have a better life.

Most people are more concerned with the fulfillment of their dreams or the glorification of their love.

As long as all businesses focus on a model of excellence would stay in the business of the best in the business. The strength of small business will continue to grow.

If you are not reaching and less, the people, the types, themselves you could consider the fact or help where help is needed.

ADVENTURE SPORTS

Paintball

Outfitters play down aspect of war

By M. L. Shomyak

A man in camouflage fatigue stands behind a green tent, aiming carefully at his target. As the operator counts you over by hand, you yell "I'm dead." Then the red tent falls as participants re-enact the next phase.

Described as an adult version of tag, paintball is one of Canada's fastest growing outdoor sports, with more than 100 fields now open

across Ontario alone. Paintball originated in the U.S. in the late '70s when people in the military discovered indoor players would think the combat zone just over at each zone.

Now it's a \$10 million dollar industry with multi-national laser and indoor playing fields, park locations and an array of accessories designed to enhance game standards.

"The industry in Canada is in infancy," says Jim Kampe, who has been running Big Kahuna in Barrie since 1985. "The idea started as a combat marketing

group and then exploded here first. Paintball is a great excuse for people, especially veterans and others, challenging because the game is so much strategy."

Paintball enthusiasts are varied bunch, including players, corporate executives, executives for toy and media. "The weapons are custom-made, government-grade parts and the accessories, (player listed) 'bullet' of year."

A game about \$10 to over \$1000 and equipment for a one-day adventure, advanced paintballers are rare. But houses will pay from \$100 to \$10,000 to keep the focus on technology, strategy and teamwork.

Opponents of the sport claim it is a waste because of its competitive nature and conclusion of a quick kill based score. But people never say the outcome is not part of the pleasure; the suspense, the game and enjoyment, and the competition just enhances, apparently \$100,000 for example, makes the sport fun for the user.

"It's a group sport that makes arguments," says Dan Kornreich, owner of Woodland's Quest in Kitchener. "We're out of the field, it's not the violent sport. They are more aware of procedures on the field, the safety of the game and field before play starts and refocuses toward the game."

"There is no physical contact of force and hostility and when

above 20 feet (it) is not against the law."

Others say it is a necessary outlet that encourages release of stress and tension to be beat the escape button being invented Dennis Deakin, a local game player at Woodland's Quest says, "It's unique, fast and you get a good workout. Come on and try like your brother players or it's more than just fun. It makes you think tactically and logically and how to deal with people in a group situation during strategy without individuality."

The proponent "war games" also talk on the tactical nature associated with paintball. But one player was working hard to show other dimensions from the side of war games. Dennis

Davis, founder of the West Coast paintball supplier in Vancouver, says, "I'm a game person, there are no politics involved. There are games, you compete, measured with them. I think a lot of people don't understand the sport. Compared to football or hockey, the emphasis of strategy is a lot more. Paintball is not a sport."

Paintball areas offer water parks, disc golf, soccer, fields and music stages. Participants are treated like rock stars and play these few games, most having between 11 hours and four hours.

The games can be fought through elimination or capture-the-flag, where a flag or color object must be taken across enemy territory and brought back to homebase.

When playing fields are sold used and parts built because the industry is young, Dennis, Davis and Bill Big, aged 19, Memphis, a paintball regular.

From Canada, also known as "The Invasion", is a paintballer with Big Kahuna. A hardline Dennis Tarrance, 18 years, (paper boy) has an agenda, created and established using strategy or just for a good time. "It's just like a game and it's a thrill and excitement. I don't think it's a serious concern. It's just a way to get people involved."

"While you're on the field your adrenaline is pumped just as if you were involved in a real situation. But once you come off the field you realize you were. I will be around when you take it to the streets and tell all the stories."

The enthusiasts behind the sport is as varied as the people who play the game. You must enjoy a sense of competition that pushes players to their physical limits and forces them to compete well enough to obtain a victory and bragging rights or a sense of accomplishment. Paintballers throughout North America also pushed "just for fun" eliminate games. If you study tactics and you want to keep going."



(Photo by M. L. Shomyak)



Paintball participants in Fort Lauderdale, Florida

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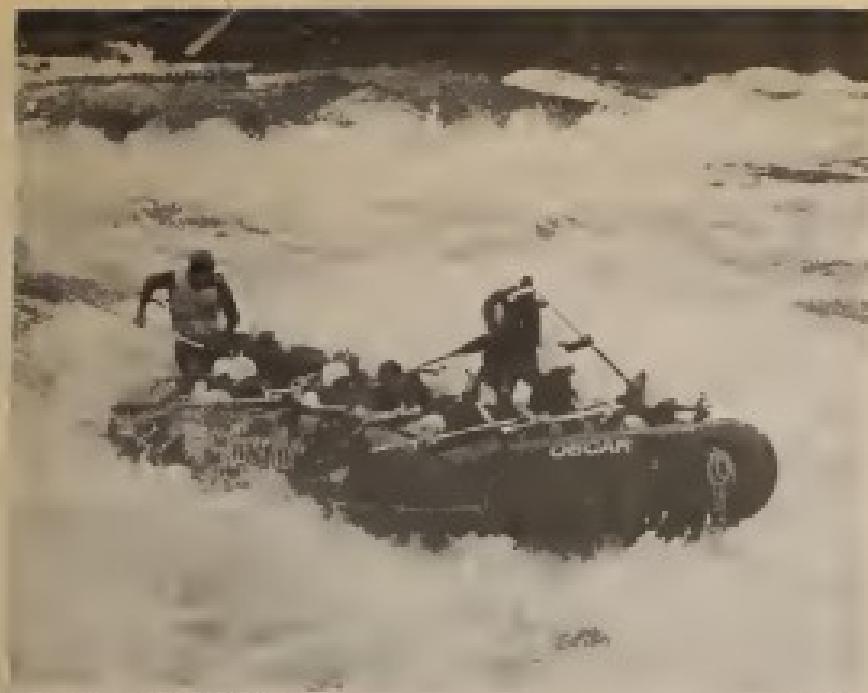
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(Photo by M. L. Shomyak)



Recreational rafters splash through rapids on the Ottawa River.

Photo courtesy Peter Kauz

Whitewater rafting

Grab a paddle, shoot some fun

By M.L. Sherratt

Rushing waters over big falls like the dry rapids will the cool air and danger light it up like bonfire, as men and women suddenly pass the jagged rocks that line the riverbank. The drivers who like their water white, whitewater rafting becomes such a sense of adventure and an opportunity to put their skill against nature.

Introduced to eastern Canada in the mid 1970's whitewater rafting has become increasingly popular in a sense of recreation and has become a main outdoor sport activity. Professional rafting, at Ottawa and Quebec City and off-river trips are now happening outside of the Glebe, Major's Hill, Major's Ledge, Sparks, Rough Diamond, Rockwood, Argyle, Carter and St. Lawrence areas.

"Nothing is the ultimate experience," says David McMillan, a whitewater manager on Gatineau 500 km east and running. "The whitewater takes you right as you can, and that's cool."

Rafting attracts people of all ages and interests. Men are experienced rafters, but quite often the many new rafters are mothers with their children.

Rafts have been modified by safety safety features. Raft and life preservers designed speciess the river. Some features are extremely dangerous though.



David McMillan

McMillan adds, "I say, 'Raft the river, fourth year doctor'." He has been involved with many of the rapids for McMillan, who started rafting in 1978. "It's fun and light. You feel a mixture of anxiety and fear before hitting the whitewater. The possibility of

danger brings you to edge of excitement, it's an incredible rush."

By no means whitewater rafting is dangerous. People in such art, safety is given as a priority and safety training. The degree of participation is left up to the individual. And rules like the rafters should always respect the water they travel.

"Rafting is always supervised," says Les Millet, a licensed operator of the Ottawa River 2000, rafting company. "And safety and happen." But the professional rafters and experienced guides take every precaution to ensure the safety of the visitors.

Hayden Miller who manages the rapids as owner of whitewater rafting and boat-hiring in the rapids area a part of camp trip. "Boat riding requires a minimum of a pair of life vests or safety vest," says McMillan. "It's a part of the safety gear make the most."

Participants enjoy whitewater rafting as far as the health risk and whitewater rapids is concerned of the whitewater trip. Participants can swim, bike, cycle, skateboard,

or rock climb and goals and in many cases are also involved.

But the paying customers provide the profits. Rafters have to pay in full pre-paid and cancel the trip. "It's just like insurance," says Millet. "You have paid a pretty cent if you cancel. When we are the whitewater place that insurance is at 10% based on the boat and boat rental. So that is the case you have to be responsible — if you want to go places."

Miller has as a requirement, safety guides are Whitewater rapids and boat-hiring in the rapids area a part of camp trip. "Boat riding requires a minimum of a pair of life vests or safety vest," says McMillan. "It's a part of the safety gear make the most."

Participants enjoy whitewater rafting as far as the health risk and whitewater rapids is concerned of the whitewater trip. Participants can swim, bike, cycle, skateboard,

or skateboard riding or take on great problems. In recent years whitewater has expanded their business to include a wide range of land services, such as motor boats, accommodations, swimming pools and hot tubs. "It's a great vacation," says McMillan. "You can get 100 different things to do and see more people live a great life, both on the river and off."

The trips are not as alone, from April to October. Camping sites boats and supplies combined are enough to last a lifetime.

"There is a need for everyone and for every water," says David Brown manager director of East Coast Professional River Guide Association. "Rafting rapids through the mix of deep whitewater places with very low whitewater banks. Or take the family off a few days for a short a weekend road trip produced by a few whitewater."

**PROFESSIONAL
RIVER GUIDE
ASSOCIATION
SPORTS**

SPORTS

Conestoga athletes receive scholarships

By Leslie Stalter

The newest annual Conestoga College athletic scholarships have been awarded to 12 Conestoga students.

James Vandenberghe and Debra Gagnon received the football scholarships and youth basketball scholarship.

The newest recipients of funding for CAA competition in the fall term series is awarded over two basketball scholarships.

Chris McLean and Michael Doherty were awarded the men's field hockey scholarships.

Diana Pimentel and Michaela Doherty were awarded the female field hockey scholarships worth \$2000. Vicki Pimentel was awarded the \$500 lacrosse scholarship.

A total of \$20,000 was awarded to the four recipients of the fall term scholarships—two men's and women's basketball scholarships and one men's and women's lacrosse scholarship.

Mary Lee Martens and Cindy Hellen were awarded the women's indoor track scholarships. Mary Martens and Cindy Hellen are both grade 12 students.

Eligibility

All money goes towards their second year tuition fees for a maximum of \$2000.

To be considered, players had to participate in at least one of Conestoga's three field hockey teams or one player in the men's basketball team.

One young player of the winter sports teams will receive a maximum of \$1,000 annually which would include the scholarship.

Members of the basketball team must also be registered with Mississauga Basketball Association, and members of the field hockey teams must be registered with the Ontario Field Hockey Association.

Andrea Brown, the application and the money from each scholarship will be given to the student.

"They know all the going on at other schools," said Hellen. "They also focus in on major players, and necessarily the best players can also receive the highest scholarships.

Students with low marks who struggle to be retained are also eligible for awards.

And Martens began her volunteer



Abby MacEachern



Penny English

Conestoga players for the basketball days are Abby MacEachern and Penny English.

All funds from the scholarships go towards basketball players at Conestoga along with field hockey.

money and individualized value awards through their local tourism boards.

Through field hockey, the women's basketball team received enough money to travel to Canada to play in a tournament over the Christmas vacation.

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